

REMARKS

Applicants have amended their claims in order to facilitate proceedings in connection with the above-identified application, so as to achieve earliest possible issuance of a U.S. patent based thereon. Specifically, Applicants are canceling claims 159-163, 175-179 and 181-184 without prejudice or disclaimer, and, in particular, without prejudice to the filing of a Divisional application directed to the subject matter thereof.

The Examiner is thanked for the allowance of claims 164-174, 180 and 185, in the Office Action mailed October 16, 2006, in the above-identified application. Applicants have cancelled those claims withdrawn from consideration in the above-identified application, without prejudice or disclaimer, and, in particular, without prejudice to the filing of a Divisional application directed to the subject matter thereof.

The Statement of reasons for indication of allowable subject matter on page 2 of the Office Action mailed October 16, 2006, and, in particular, the contention by the Examiner that claim 159 "is anticipated by Chopra" (apparently, U.S. Patent No. 6,039,633 to Chopra), is noted. Applicants are at a loss to explain this gratuitous statement by the Examiner. Note that the Examiner has withdrawn claim 159, among other claims, from consideration, thereby preventing Applicants from addressing on the merits this gratuitous statement by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that it is unfair for the Examiner, on the one hand, to withdraw claim 159 from consideration, while, on the other hand, indicating that this claim is anticipated by the teachings of a reference. Suffice it to say that Applicants do not agree with this characterization of claim 159 by the Examiner; but in view of the fact that claim 159 has been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner is being

cancelled herein, Applicants will not further address this gratuitous statement by the Examiner.

Moreover, for purposes of conciseness, Applicants do not address the Examiner's Statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter. Suffice it to say that this failure by Applicants to address arguments by the Examiner in the Statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter, does not constitute an admission as to the propriety of, or agreement with, such Statement.

In any event, as all remaining claims in the application are allowable, passing of the above-identified application to issue in due course, is respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (case No. 566.40319X00), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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